

# RESURRECTION NEWS



**DECEMBER 2016**



## Pastor's Letter

December, 2016

"My Soul Magnifies The Lord"

*"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation..." Luke 1:46-56*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every once in a while, we will read a news report about a woman who wakes up in the middle of the night, or goes home from work in the middle of the day with terrible indigestion. As the pains increase and begin to come in noticeable intervals, she goes to her doctor and lo and behold, the doctor determines the reason for her pain. She's pregnant. In fact, she's in labor. And before the day is over, she is a mother. Surprise!

One day, a young woman, probably in her teens, was surprised by the announcement that she was pregnant. Surprised, because she had never been with a man. Surprised, because the announcement was made to her by an angel of the Lord. Surprised, because the angel described this child in such incredible terms. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High," (Luke 1:32-33).

As we might expect, all this young woman could say was, "How could this be?" How could this be that I should be pregnant? How could this be that I should be chosen to be the mother of God? How could this be happening to me?

Mary's "Magnificat" speaks faithfully for the whole church on earth. 'Magnificat' is Latin for "Magnify." We know what that means. It means to make large. When you look at things under a microscope it magnifies them so that what was hidden to the naked eye can be seen. When a detective is looking for clues to a crime he gets out his magnifying glass to examine for finger prints. As Mary examines her situation, it is the child she is carrying who comes up big.

How easy it would have been for us to understand if Mary had magnified Mary. For the Lord to have chosen her to carry the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord's - she must be pretty special. We'd understand if Mary had magnified Mary because we all have magnified ourselves under far less circumstances. When God blesses us, we survey the situation and usually conclude that God knew what He was doing in picking us to bless.

The example of Mary causes us to ask ourselves, who or what am I magnifying in my life right now? What's the biggest thing in my life right now? Am I magnifying the Lord, or myself, or am I magnifying my problems?

Like Mary, the Lord is mindful of our lowliness. And that leads us to a surprising thing that happens when we magnify the Lord in our life. As we magnify the Lord, we get smaller. That is, we are humbled. And as we are humbled the Lord magnifies us before His Father in heaven.

Allow the Word of God to humble you this Advent season. Allow the same Word to magnify the Christ who has come, is coming and will come again to magnify you before His heavenly Father.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Nielsen*

## *Notes from your Deaconess*

December, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

As we journey into and through the Advent season, we prepare ourselves for the coming of our King. As Pastor has noted, during this first part of the church year, we focus particularly on our Lord's future coming to judge all nations. Yet we also anticipate our celebration of his (now past) coming into this world as one of us, a baby in Bethlehem, and recognize and rejoice in his sacramental coming to us weekly through the Word combined with water, bread and wine.

*Confession* and *absolution*, the next components of the Divine Service to consider, complete our preparation for his weekly coming to us. Each form of the Divine Service which we use inserts one or more verses of scripture between the invocation and this time of confession to remind us of God's word on the subject. The early church did not include public general confession, as each individual who attended was expected to have individually confessed and been absolved by the priest or pastor before arriving for the service. Unfortunately, this had come to be viewed as a good work that needed to be performed in order to participate in worship. Private confession and absolution continues to be both helpful and healthful for individual believers, but together we as church publicly confess our need.

As humans all descended from Adam and Eve we have original sin as part of our physical beings, and hence we commit actual sins naturally. In our baptism and rebirth by the Holy Spirit, which we recall in the invocation preceding confession, we have been forgiven and renewed, but sin still clings to us.

Although baptized and forgiven, we verbally admit and acknowledge our continued sinfulness in these mortal bodies. The words of absolution spoken by the Pastor and heard by us encourage and comfort us as individual believers and as a body and family which anticipates receiving the Lord's gifts in the worship to follow. The Pastor, with the authority given him *as* a pastor, declares God's grace to us, a condensation of the gospel. You also might notice that during the service the Pastor faces the altar and joins the church in the words of confession, but then turns to face the church when he announces the absolution – which he speaks “In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

In this first week of Advent, the lectionary readings include the call of Isaiah in chapter six. Before Isaiah could be used by the Lord, he confessed his sin and received forgiveness (Isaiah 6:5-8). This prepared him to receive God's word and carry it to others. May we look forward to receiving God's word and gifts each time we gather together, and also be ready to carry that word to others.

Advent joy and comfort be with you all.

Under his mercy,

*Sharon M. Conover*

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation: Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - After Worship.** The annual meeting of the congregation is an important time for the congregation to review its life together in 2016 and plan for 2017. Please plan to join us for the meeting. A free Pizza Party will precede the meeting.

**Mid-Week Advent Vespers Service: - 12/14 - Wednesday - 7:00pm.**

As we enter the midst of the "Christmas rush," we need the help of the Holy Spirit working through His Word in the Liturgy to keep or focus on the meaning of Christmas and the reason for our great joy. Please plan to join us at 7:00pm. for this special service of readings, hymns and prayer.

**Christmas Worship Schedule:**

- 12/24 - **Christmas Eve:** Candlelight Lessons and Carols - 7:00pm.
- 12/25 - **Christmas Day:** Divine Service - 10:00am. (*No Sunday School / Bible Study*)
- 1/1 - **Sunday after Christmas / New Years Day:** Worship - 10:00am. (*No Sunday School / Bible Study*)

**Stewardship Pledges for 2017 - Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

You will be receiving a 2017 Stewardship packet during the week of December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please give prayerful consideration to your pledge for the work of the Lord through this congregation in 2017 and beyond. We will gather our pledges and present them to the Lord for His blessing during worship on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Adult Bible Study - Sunday Mornings: 8:45am.**

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| December 4  | "Psalm of the Month: Psalm 72" - "Give the King your justice."   |
| December 11 | "Christian Worship" - Why do we worship the way that we do? Did you know that the rhythm of New Testament worship is deeply rooted in Old Testament worship? |
| December 18 | "A Survey of 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Samuel" - On overview of the life of the Church under kings Saul and David.                                 |
| December 25 | <i>No Adult Bible Study - Worship at 10:00am.</i>  |

**Board for Missions Meeting Minutes - 11/2/16** *Mid Maine Homeless Shelter - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

After a review of the minutes from the October meeting, the follow topics were discussed:

- The Board had a discussion about the monthly Homeless Shelter meal. Consensus was that this was a somewhat demanding project for the congregation to participate in, but that it was also a good project and should be continued. Deb Nielsen was commended for her oversight.
- A rough estimate of mission funds to be allocated by the end of the year (after fixed commitments such as District, Hope, Seminary Students) was determined to be \$4,000.
- **Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter** - Brian led the board on a tour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor which is under construction. Construction is targeted to be completed by mid-January. He is currently working on purchasing all of the furniture, appliances, housewares that will be necessary for residents and staff. The Board voted to recommend that \$2000 be given towards the purchase of washers/dryers.
- **Maine Children's Home For Little Wanderers** - The Board voted to recommend that \$1000 be given towards the Children's Christmas Program. Also, there may be some opportunity for service in the spring, with some yard work.
- Board for Missions recommendations will be submitted at the 11/14 Church Council Meeting.
- Pastor Nielsen reported on receiving a request from Rev. Charles St.Onge, a LCMS missionary to Montreal and Caribbean, who would like to visit the congregation for a "Mission Sunday."

The Board recommended that pastor follow-up with Rev. St. Onge for more information and schedule his visit to the congregation if it is feasible.

**Next Meeting:** December 7, 2016 - 6:00pm. Meeting to be held at Dan Callahan's home for dinner. The Board would encourage members of the congregation who would like to participate on the board to speak to any of the members or pastor.

**Thank you from Lutherans For Life**

10/25/16

Dear Brothers and Sisters at The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

The Lord be with you! I thank you for the generous gift of \$250 that you entrusted to Lutherans for Life. I assure you it has been received with not only rejoicing but also with a sense of responsibility. You have offered yourselves as representatives of Jesus Christ and instruments of Almighty God in supporting our ministry. So we commend ourselves to you as your servants, working on your behalf to equip Lutherans across the country (and around the world!) to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.... (See full letter on the bulletin board in the Narthex)

In Truth and Love,

*Rev. Michael W. Salemink*- Executive Director, Lutherans For Life

**Thank you from Seminarian Grant Sorenson**

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

It seems awfully fitting to be writing this at this time of year. With Thanksgiving only a couple weeks past, I cannot help but continually give thanks for your prayers and support! I praise God every day for you and all that you do. I am deeply honored and grateful.

As for me, I am just getting into my second quarter at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. I look forward to my continued studies and all that I will learn! I am also remaining very busy as I am preparing to get married on Dec. 31, 2016! I look forward to this new path in life and all the blessings God has placed in my life!

Thank you again for all that you do! You are a blessing to me and my wife-to-be! God's richest blessings!

In Christ,

*Grant Sorenson*

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me shall remain in darkness." John 12:46

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**Christmas Poinsettias:**

Every year, we grace the chancel with poinsettias during the Christmas season. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, please include \$12 per plant with your offering envelope marked - "flowers." **The deadline to order is December 11<sup>th</sup>.** You may also provide your own plant for the chancel. Please be sure to indicate how you would like the announcement to read:

From: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

To The Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_



## BIBLE QUIZ

### Monthly Worship

**December 4, 2016**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

**Psalm:** 72:1-7

**First Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10

**Epistle:** Romans 15:4-13

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

**December 11, 2016**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**Psalm:** 146

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-10

**Epistle:** James 5:7-11

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-15

**December 18, 2016**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Psalm:** 24

**First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-17

**Epistle:** Romans 1:1-7

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25

**December 24, 2016**

**The Nativity of our Lord  
(Christmas Eve)**

**Psalm:** 110:1-4

**First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-14

**Epistle:** Romans 1 John 4:7-16

**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25

**December 25, 2016**

**The Nativity of our Lord  
(Christmas Day)**

**Psalm:** 2

**First Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10

**Epistle:** Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)

**Gospel:** John 1:1-14 (15-18)

**1. Who initiated the citywide riot in Ephesus?**

A) Peter B) Paul C) the city rulers D) Demetrius

**2. What was the Jewish leaders' biggest problem with Jesus' miraculous healings?**

A) The healings were done with official approval  
B) the healings were done to known sinners and tax collectors  
C) the healings were done as a means of showing off

**3. Why is Jesus taking so long in returning to earth?**

A) He is patiently waiting so many people will repent and not be destroyed  
B) He is carefully watching us to see who will live by faith  
C) He is amusing himself by playing with our lives for as long as possible  
D) He has actually forgotten about returning

**4. Why did the dynamic divinely appointed team, Paul and Barnabas split up?**

A) Barnabas was arrested B) Paul was arrested  
C) they could not agree about bringing the deserter John Mark with them  
D) God called Barnabas to go to Tarshish

**5. How long did the flood waters cover the earth?**

A) 40 days B) 150 days C) 365 days D) 515 days

**6. Who said this: "Ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger"?**

A) slaves under Nebuchadnezzar B) soldiers under David  
C) the crowd under Moses D) a mob under Pilate



12/11 Robert Sieber  
 12/12 Maira Goldsmith  
 12/13 Sharon Conover  
 Allison Farr  
 12/14 Evelyn Gaug  
 12/15 Ethan Carlson  
 12/23 Dan Callahan  
 12/25 Evelyn Gilbert  
 12/27 Natalie Crowley  
 12/30 Karen Morren  
 12/31 Matthew Esculano  
 Liberty Hillery



*Happy Anniversary*

12/16 Fernando & Mari Gouvea  
 12/20 Peter & Lois Doran  
 12/27 Dan & Sharon Callahan



12/21 Evan Farr  
 Haley Farr  
 12/25 Dottie Evertsen



12/17 Esther Gould  
 John Gould  
 12/19 Richard Dostie

**In The Classroom**

- TEACHER: Why are you late?  
 WEBSTER: Because of the sign.  
 TEACHER: What sign?  
 WEBSTER: The one that says, "School Ahead, Go Slow."
- TEACHER: Cindy, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?  
 CINDY: You told me to do it without using tables!
- TEACHER: John, how do you spell "crocodile"?  
 JOHN: "K-R-O-K-D-A-I-L"  
 TEACHER: No, that's wrong.  
 JOHN: Maybe it's wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.
- TEACHER: George, go to the map and find North America.  
 GEORGE: Here it is!  
 TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?  
 CLASS: George!

**Bible Quiz Answers**

1. D (Acts 19:24-29)
2. B (Luke 13:14)
3. A (2Peter 3:9)
4. C (Acts 15:37-39)
5. B (Genesis 7:24)
6. C (Exodus 16:3)





# Stewardship - December

	<u>Dec. 4</u>	<u>Dec. 11</u>	<u>Dec. 18</u>	<u>Dec. 24</u>	<u>Dec. 25</u>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Caden Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Andrew Farr</b>	<b>Emmy Carlson</b>	-----	<b>Allison Farr</b>
<b>Comm. Assistant</b>	<b>Brad Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Brian Watson</b>	<b>Steve Love</b>	<b>No Communion</b>	<b>Chris Batson</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Mike Hein &amp; Tom Huesers</b>	<b>John Gould &amp; Bill Jahnke</b>	<b>Mark Larsen &amp; Jacob Huesers</b>	<b>Moe Cote &amp; Brad Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>John Ayotte &amp; Glenn Carlson</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Pat Kablitz &amp; David Leigh</b>	<b>Peter &amp; Lois Doran</b>	<b>Tom &amp; Katie Huesers</b>	<b>Mike &amp; Michelle Hein</b>	<b>Chris &amp; Yvonne Batson</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Sharon Conover</b>	<b>Amanda Goldsmith</b>	<b>Amy Ouellette</b>	<b>No Communion</b>	<b>Kitty Carlson</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Julie &amp; Sarah Kohl</b>	<b>Julie &amp; Sarah Kohl</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>LWML</b>	<b>Annual Meeting-- Pizza</b>	<b>Chris &amp; Yvonne Batson</b>	-----	----